



A Story of Aaron Burr's Conspiracy.

By JOHN R. MUSICK.

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Of the long trial of Aaron Burr, extending into weeks and months, we will give only a passing glance. The legal trial of the Nation was there. Mr. Wirt's famous Blennerhassett Oration is familiar to every school boy. Aaron Burr's prosecution of mind never for a single instant deserted him. All his matchless powers were brought to his command. Burr seemed to sustain and uphold him through his severest trial, and he assured his friends that he would yet triumph and continue the expedition. But he had aroused a Nation against him, and was positively surprised to find that the most dramatic episodes of the trial occurred in the selection of the jury. With one of the panel the prisoner had the following conversation in open court:

"Have the rumors (mentioned by the jury) excited a prejudice in your mind against me?" asked Col. Burr.

"I have no prejudice for or against you," was the reply.

Mr. Botts asked, "Are you a freeholder?"

"Yes," said the jury; "I have two patents for land."

"Are you worth \$200?" inquired one of the counsel.

"Yes, I have a horse worth the half of it."

"Have you another at home?" inquired one of the counsel, jokingly, "to make up the other half?"

A general titter followed the question, which settled the jury. "But," said he, "four of them." Then turning to the spectators, he continued, "I am surprised that they should be in so much terror of me. Perhaps my name is a terror, for my first name is Hamilton."

A shock for a single instant thrilled the frame of Aaron Burr, and quickly rising he said in a voice that was severe: "That remark is sufficient cause for objecting to him. I challenge him peremptorily." The jury was stricken from the list.

It will be necessary at this point in our story to return to the other conspirators who were arrested the day after Burr's disappearance. Harry Granger, Jim Brouder and Jack Moore were confined in a miserable prison. Jack's cheek grew more flushed and his eyes more intense. The cold nights, the damp winds and hardships were telling on the hardy frame of the young pioneer. He soon became so ill that he was removed to a prison hospital. After a few days he was better. After many earnest appeals Harry was permitted to go and act as nurse for his sick friend. No brother could have been more attentive to Jack than Harry Granger. He was at his side day and night, and did all in his power to save him.

"I ain't no use, Harry," Jack one day said in a feeble voice. "This can't last much longer. I'm gettin' awful bad, an' I don't keer how soon it's over with."

"Oh, Jack, you must not die," Harry said, "I'll take care of you."

"What villain! What villain!" he managed to exclaim.

But I am not so mean. If I had ever done anything for God I might ask Him to help me now, but I'd be ashamed to call on Him for help now who I had all my life abused. He became silent for a few moments, and the preacher, shocked at the strange perversion of the sinner before him, could not immediately frame an answer. Suddenly the sick man opened his eyes and starting up leaned on one elbow, and gazing into the face of the minister asked:

"Where did you come from, mister?"

"From New Jersey."

"Jarney, and your name is?"

"Bradley."

"I know you now. You are the man she is to marry. Tell me, do you love Edith Granger?"

The amazed minister, after a moment of speechlessness, stammered out an answer. "She has given him a little son."

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Harry at once remembered the letter which Datchery had given him, and which he had forgotten to give to Burr.

"Sister, you did not read it," Harry said.

"Could it," she answered, "It would take a Philadelphia lawyer to make any sense out of that thing. The mice cut upon the envelope, but it is all worse than Greek to me."

"Let me have it," Harry Granger now felt that the circumstances would justify him in reading the letter. Burr had played the spy with him, had made him his tool in what he now understood was a disgraceful and treasonable transaction, and he was justified in prying into his affairs and Datchery's. He took the letter and by aid of the key began its translation. It was no easy task, and he worked until late in the night before he had made out the following startling and villainous epistle:

Albany, December 23, 1806.

Col. A. Burr.

Dear Colonel and Harry:

Your letter brought by the hand of your trusted friend, Harry Granger, has just reached me. In answer I will say that the money, to the amount of \$40,000, has been raised from your enemies, not your friends. In order that you may fully appreciate my usefulness, I will explain the little scheme by which I worked the money out of Paul Livingston, your bitter enemy. Gross, who had joined you through my own persuasions, wanted the money for the expedition, and I had him make a mortgage to me for all the property he owned. These mortgages I did not immediately record, but told him to go to table between them and sat looking at her.

"You did what you thought was for the best, but you were deceived, Harry, as my poor papa was, and I would no more censure you than I would him. Don't be angry with me, Harry. The reality of these sad events, I have no one with whom I can talk about them save you."

To him she seemed once more a child. It struck her how young and how lovely the child he saw and heard, and not the dark woman for whom he would have wrested a throne, crown and the jewels of the earth to lay at her feet.

"You remember that evening you were at our house, Harry, before papa was so suddenly stricken down, and you told me you would go far away, no more of the earth to lay at her feet."

"I have won it round my neck. If I had fallen in the enterprise it would have been buried with me."

"And you will wear it still, Harry, for my sake."

"Until I die."

She laid her hand on his as fearfully and tenderly as if she had been a loving child he saw and heard, and not the dark woman for whom he would have wrested a throne, crown and the jewels of the earth to lay at her feet.

"I am glad that I shall be remembered to think so, Harry, do you always glad that night, when we were alone, how through my own persuasions, wanted the money for the expedition, and I had him make a mortgage to me for all the property he owned. These mortgages I did not immediately record, but told him to go to table between them and sat looking at her."

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ROUGH RIDING.

(Continued from first page.)

The marking on the hip and shaving of the head was always done in the guard house before bringing the prisoners out.

The prisoners' hands were then securely tied to the upper rim of the cannon wheel and his feet to the lower rim. As buglers or drummers or fifers were always required to do the whipping, a bugler now stepped forward at command of the Officer of the Day, was handed a rawhide whip by the Sergeant of the guard, and ordered by the officer:

"Burr, do your duty, and lay it on well," the Officer of the Day counting the lashes aloud and compelling the reluctant bugler to strike heavy blows.

The prisoner took his punishment without flinching, although the blood flowed freely from many cuts the cruel whip made. I would not have believed, had I not seen it, that any man could endure such torture so bravely, but this fellow appeared to have no feeling.

When the 50th lash was counted the bugler ceased, seemingly very tired. As the guards stepped forward to lead the big prisoner said, speaking to the Officer of the Day:

"Would be glad to accommodate you, the officer replied, 'but can't do it. Each man must receive his own sentence.'"

While that of the Colonel approved, he turned his back on the performance, and although he counted the lashes aloud he did not notice that the merciful bugler's blows were only a pretense, a kitten, though he made a great pretense of striking hard, and when the last lash was counted the drummer boy had little to do but to put a few red marks across his back.

Then came the final part of the sentence, the "drumming out."

After the drum had done his office, the two were placed in front of the guard, and required to keep their hats off. A fife and drummer then took the place of the bugler, and the prisoners, the guard came to a "charge bayonet" behind them, and they were marched off to the time of the "Hugue's March."

The three were escorted through the guardhouse, and well on the road toward Leavenworth City, and then turned loose, while we were marched back to our quarters.

As we marched back all seemed deadened by the depressing punishment inflicted on those two culprits, and I asked old Tom, who was by my side, if such sights were frequent in the army.

He replied: "Not very, and I am glad to see that such brutal punishment is fast becoming a thing of the past. I have seen sentence and ordered its execution, he is really a kind-hearted man, but a strict disciplinarian, and now and then finds it necessary to make a few examples of some of these bad cases; and these two fellows are bad ones, and we are well rid of them."

I witnessed a repetition of this barbarous scene, attended with greater or less degrees of brutality, several times during my enlistment. I have seen the Officer of the Day march the wretched culprits to the bugler and give him several severe cuts to compel him to a more vigorous application of the lash; and I have heard the bugler cry out in agony and scream and faint under the torture. But the horrible practice was doomed when once brought prominently to the notice of the American public.

At the beginning of the late civil war, when this mode of punishment was applied to some of the volunteers, it brought such a storm of indignation, and from the people through the press that Congress abolished it.

As it is a humiliating and unbecoming punishment, I will not describe the ceremonies, but let the foregoing do for all.

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